

A new station for *Trillium Ludovicianum*

ERDMAN WEST

During January 1934, Dr. W. A. Murrill was informed that there was a peculiar plant growing in the woods on a farm near Gainesville, Florida. A day or two later, Doctor Murrill and the writer visited the farm to examine this unusual plant, and were surprised to have our guide lead us to a clump of trilliums. A survey of the neighborhood revealed several hundred other



Trillium Ludovicianum Harbison. Left—specimen with dark petals and narrow sepals. Right—specimen with light petals and broad, mottled sepals.

specimens. Trilliums, including this species, are not uncommon in Florida from Tallahassee westward, and one or two stations are known about 30 miles east of that area. As the crow flies, Gainesville is 50 miles south and over 100 miles east of Tallahassee. As far as known, there are no records of any trilliums in or near this new area.

The station covers about an acre of hillside sloping to the west and consists of moist but well-drained, open woodland.

The woody vegetation includes scattered loblolly pines, several species of oaks and a great many shrubby species, forming a dense undergrowth. There is no evidence that fire has ravaged this area for many years. although the surrounding territory is burned almost annually. Considerable scouting in the vicinity has not yielded any further colonies. The first open flower at this station in 1935 was observed on January 8.

The plants correspond very well to the description of *Trillium Ludovicianum* Harbison, as given in Small's "Manual of the Southeastern Flora," and also to Harbison's original description in the Biltmore Botanical Studies. They show considerable variation in petal color. About half of those observed have purplish-chocolate bases or are streaked with these colors. The age of the blossom does not seem to have any bearing on these color variations. The sepals also exhibit variations in shape and markings. Some are lanceolate and solid green, while equally as many are lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, and mottled like the leaves. One plant has the sepals colored purplish like the petals. No correlation whatsoever has been observed between the various forms and colors of petals and sepals. Some of the leaves are acuminate at the tips, but most of them are acute or blunt. The figure shows both light and dark colored petals and the variations in the sepals.

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA